

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the addition of new claims 50 to 53, claims 34 and 50 to 53 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Mark Hageman and Supervisory Patent Examiner Patrick Mackey for the courtesies extended during the course of the personal interview conducted on February 15, 2007 with John Bakula, a representative of Derrick Corporation, assignee of the present application, and Applicants' representative, Jason Mueller (Reg. No. 58,603).

During the course of the interview, U.S. Patent No. 5,332,101 ("Bakula '101") was discussed.

During the course of the interview, photographs of two different screening devices were shown. Attached are copies of these photographs.

During the course of the interview, claim 34 was primarily discussed.

During the course of the interview, Bakula '101 was discussed. As part of these discussions, the channel structure and the position of the screen relative to the channel were discussed.

During the course of the interview, and during a subsequent telephonic conversation between Examiner Hageman and Mr. Mueller on February 22, 2007, the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed are reflected in claim 34 as presented herein.

During the course of the interview, the addition of new independent and dependent claims was also discussed.

During the course of the interview, the general thrust of the principal arguments of the Applicant included the lack of disclosure in Bakula '101 of first and second portions of a screen sub-assembly spaced from and overlying first and second finger-receiving apertures, respectively, and secured to a central portion of a

plate inwardly from first and second finger-receiving apertures and extending toward and attached to side edges of first and second plate flanges, respectively.

The general result of the interview was that it was generally agreed that amending claim 34, as presented herein, would overcome the rejection based on Bakula '101.

III. Rejection of Claim 34 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bakula '101. It is respectfully submitted that Bakula '101 does not anticipate claim 34 for at least the following reasons.

Claim 34 has been amended to recite that the vibratory screen assembly comprises a plate including a central portion and first and second plate flanges, the central portion having first and second side edge portions and a first and a second series of finger-receiving apertures located inwardly from said first and second side edge portions, respectively, the first and second plate flanges of said plate located outwardly of said first and second series of finger-receiving apertures, the first and second plate flanges extending from the first and second side edge portions, respectively, of said central portion approximately perpendicular to the central portion of the plate, screen sub-assembly on said central portion of said plate, and first and second portions of said screen sub-assembly spaced from and overlying said first and second finger-receiving apertures, respectively, and secured to said central portion of said plate inwardly from said first and second finger-receiving apertures and extending toward and attached to said first and second plate flanges, respectively wherein the screen sub-assembly further comprises at least two outer edges formed into planar side planes extending from said first and second portions of said screen sub-assembly parallel to the respective first and second plate flanges and contacting the respective first and second plate flanges. Support for these amendments can be found, e.g., at page 9, third paragraph to page 12, second paragraph of the Specification and Figures 3, 4, 11 and 14. Bakula '101 makes no mention whatsoever of the aforementioned features of claim 34. For example, Bakula '101 does not disclose at least the features of first and second portions of a screen sub-assembly spaced from and overlying first and second finger-receiving apertures, respectively, and secured to a central portion of a plate inwardly from first and second finger-receiving apertures and extending toward and

attached to side edges of first and second plate flanges, respectively. Instead, Bakula '101 merely describes a screen 22 including a screen body 26' with an apertured steel plate 27' having ends formed into channels 25 and 25'. A plurality of screens are adhesively secured to the upper surface of the apertured steel plate. The description of Bakula '101 does not disclose that the screens extend inside the channels. See Column 5, lines 31 to 35. For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Bakula '101 does not anticipate claim 34.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims 50 to 54

New claims 50 to 54 have been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that claims 50 to 54 add no new matter and are fully supported by the present application, including the Specification.

Since claims 50 to 53 depend from claim 34, it is respectfully submitted that claims 50 to 53 are patentable over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons more fully set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 34.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 54 is patentable over the reference relied upon for at least the reason that the reference relied upon does not disclose, or even suggest, at least the features of a plate and a screen sub-assembly as recited in claim 54.

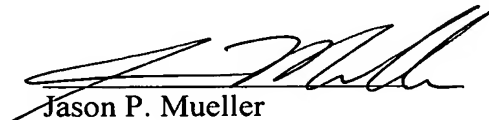
V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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